

地球之友的信頭
Letterhead of Friends of the Earth

To: Honourable members of LegCo Panel for Environmental Affairs

	<u>Fax. No.</u>
Dr. Hon. Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP	2147 9027
Prof Hon NG Ching-fai	2971 0197
Hon HUI Cheung-ching	2785 5121
Hon Christine LOH	2575 8430
Hon Bernard CHAN	2545 0093
Hon CHAN Wing-chan	2509 9092
Dr Hon LEONH Che-hung, JP	2840 0748
Hon WONG Yung-kan	2840 0808
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung	2779 0731
Hon LAU Kong-wah	2530 3869
Hon Mrs Mariam LAU Kin-ye, JP	2392 3408
Hon CHOY So-yuk	2570 5917 / 2570 5903
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP	2509 9688

From: Rita Leung, Campaign Co-ordinator
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Date: 24 November, 1999

**Re: Joint Green Group letter on Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) Review,
and public's opinion on SSDS**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached for your information are a letter by five local green groups raising our concern and recommendations in the forthcoming review of SSDS, and a summary of findings from a questionnaire survey by Friends of the Earth, plus some additional recommendations from the green groups on the same issue.

A full summary report of questionnaire survey will be provided after data collection ends late this month.

I would very much appreciate it if you would help us to raise our concern in the LegCo EA Panel meeting tomorrow (24 November 1999)

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rita Leung
Campaign Coordinator

23 November 1999

To: Honourable members of Legislative Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Green Groups' Recommendations to LegCo EA Panel on
SSDS Review**

The green groups welcome the initiation of a new review for the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS), and consider it a very good opportunity to re-examine the scheme closely and formulate a truly cost-effective, environmentally- friendliness, and sustainable sewage strategy for Hong Kong. At this point, we would like to make the following recommendations for the forthcoming expert review:

- 1. The review should aim at formulating a sustainable sewage strategy for Hong Kong.** which is capable of coping with Hong Kong's ever growing population and sewage generation, and at the same time being environmentally and financially sustainable. Particularly, instead of centralised disposal of sewage, the strategy should aim at localised treatment at source.
- 2. The forthcoming review should be done in a holistic manner.** It should not be limited to Stage II to IV, or to technical feasibility of the options currently adopted, but should also include all the aspects mentioned above. The green groups think it is absolutely worth reviewing the entire SSDS, taking into account experience in Stage I, changes in population forecast (and thus sewage generation forecast) and in future hydrology, and new technology available.
- 3. The review panel should include a wide range of experties.** Besides sewage and tunnel experts, it should also contain marine ecologists, economists, planners, specialists in Biological Nutrient Reduction, hydraulic and water quality monitoring experts, as well as representatives from environmental groups, so that all relevant interests can be represented in the panel and SSDS can be reviewed holistically.
- 4. Nominations from concerned groups and professional bodies should be considered.**

5. **The reviewers to be appointed should have no vested interest in the result of the forthcoming review.** All panelists should be requested to declare interest before being appointed.

6. **The review process should be as transparent as possible.** The review process and public consultation should be conducted in open meetings, and all papers and information requested by the EA Panel should be accessible to consulted parties such as EA Panel members, academics, professionals and green groups.

The green groups are in the view that the above recommendations are crucial in formulating a sewage strategy which can cope with our current and future problem of sewage disposal and marine water quality. We sincerely hope that you consider these recommendations during the formation of the forthcoming IRP.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mei Ng

on behalf of:

The Conservancy Association
Friends of the Earth
Green Power
Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society
Produce Green Foundation

cc. Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands
Director of Environmental Protection
Director of Drainage Services

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**Views on SSDS and forthcoming review
from
academics, professionals, green groups and interested individuals**

Friends of the Earth (HK) is conducting a questionnaire survey to collect views on Hong Kong Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) and expectations of the terms of the forthcoming review from concerned individuals. Interim results of the survey and more recommendations from green groups are summarised as follows:

Panel of experts: the forthcoming IRP should have a wide representation of expertise in the forthcoming panel, including sewage treatment, tunnelling/geotechnical, economics, environmental management and policy, environmental groups, marine ecology, and hydraulic and water quality monitoring.

Steering Group: a steering group with representatives from the LegCo Panel of Environmental Affairs, Advisory Council on the Environment, relevant policy bureaux should be formed to oversee the review.

Scope of review: All stages from I to IV should be reviewed. The sustainability, environmental impact, financial viability and the engineering feasibility of SSDS should be looked into. Alternatives to the current design, like higher treatment level, distributed treatment, and wastewater recycling technology, should be considered.

Transparency: the public should be kept informed about the progress and the result of the review. All panelists should be requested to declare interest before being appointed.

Public involvement: LegCo members, professionals and academics should be consulted in upon appointment of the forthcoming IRP. And the public should nominate panel expert for the forthcoming IRP, and should be kept informed about the progress and the result of the review. Parties to be consulted during the review should have full access to information.

Suspension of work: Works of Stage I should be stopped to enable an thorough review of the entire SSDS.

For more information about the questionnaire survey, please visit FoE(HK) website <http://www.foe.org.hk>